

"LITTLE EINSTEINS"

by

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Pilot Episode  
Ocean Adventure

Second Draft  
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## LITTLE EINSTEINS

Playhouse Disney Series - Created by Douglas Wood  
Pilot Episode by Douglas Wood

OPENING SEQUENCE

FADE IN:

VAST DESERT LANDSCAPE - PRE-DAWN

Nothing but sand as far as the eye can see. On the horizon, the sun creeps up over the mountains and the sky brightens. CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal the sandy mountains actually reside in a...

CHILD'S SANDBOX

an overturned sand pail lies half-buried in the sand. WIDER ANGLE reveals we are in an...

EMPTY PLAYGROUND IN A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - DAWN

Everything is absolutely still. The swings hang limply. The see-saws are motionless. The slide is bare.

Suddenly, on the jungle gyms, a bespectacled Little Einstein, LEONARDO, suddenly appears. He swings towards us, rung by rung, smiling. He runs out of rungs, but doesn't realize it, grabbing at nothing but air.

LEONARDO  
Hello ther-- whoaa!

He falls to the ground, landing in a flower bed. He waves at us, smiling sheepishly. We PAN across a row of bright daisies. Camera stops, goes back to the last flower. It's ISADORA, another Little Einstein. She greets US.

ISADORA  
Morning!

Isadora pops out of the bed, dancing through the playground, flinging flower petals right and left as Leonardo tries to keep up with her. The petals plaster his face - he spits them out, undeterred. They reach the swingset and look up to see a third Little Einstein, WOLFGANG.

WOLFGANG  
(to US)  
Welcome!

Wolfgang's about to descend the chain but chickens out. He pulls his stuffed dog, Cuddly Dudley, from his pocket and feeling secure, slides down the chain to his buddies below. The three Little Einsteins run over to the slide. They scamper up the rungs to the top and look off in the distance.

LITTLE EINSTEIN'S POV:

At the edge of the park, a tiny dot grows larger as it approaches. It's the Cosmobile, an open-air vehicle that's both high-tech and whimsical. In the driver's seat is the fourth Little Einstein - ANNIE.

ANNIE  
(to US)  
Howdy!

Annie hops out of the Cosmobile and joins the others.

BEGIN SONG:

THE GANG  
We're the four Little Einsteins

One by one, they slide down the slide.

THE GANG  
And we've come to your park

They run right up to the camera lens.

THE GANG  
'Cause we need you to help us

CLOSE-UP - BYRON

He looks a little scared.

BYRON  
(whispers)  
Before it gets dark

CUT TO:

THE GANG

on the swingset. Leonardo swings towards US on his line.

LEONARDO

You see, someone needs us

Isadora swings towards US. She points, "out there."

ISADORA

Out there in the land

Wolfgang swings towards US.

BYRON

To help solve a problem

Annie hops off the slide, offers her hand to the others as they hop off.

ANNIE

Or lend them a hand

CUT TO:

AERIAL SHOT OF MERRY-GO-ROUND

The Gang's on their backs, spinning around, looking up at US.

THE GANG

We're the four Little Einsteins...

LEONARDO

Please come for a ride!

THE GANG

each stands up, holding onto bars.

THE GANG

Our missions are better...

All four Little Einsteins point directly at US.

THE GANG

With YOU at our side!

## END SONG/OPENING SEQUENCE

They fling off the merry-go-round and land in the Cosmobile. The Little Einsteins pop out and scamper up the rungs of the jungle gym. Bespectacled LEONARDO faces US.

LEONARDO  
(to US)

You're here! We were hoping you'd come! I'm Leonardo, or Leo, as my friends call me. What's your name?

He puts his hand up to his ear, cueing OUR RESPONSE.

LEONARDO  
Cool! Let me introduce you to the rest of the Little Einsteins.

He climbs up to where ISADORA is.

LEONARDO  
This is Isadora.

ISADORA  
Hi! Want to hear a joke?  
(VIEWER replies)  
O.K! Why did the chicken cross the playground?  
(VIEWER replies)  
To get to the other slide!

Leonardo and Gang laugh. Leonardo climbs over to WOLFGANG.

LEONARDO  
And this is Wolfgang...

Wolfgang looks unprepared. In a split second he combs his hair, tucks in his shirt, shines his shoes, wipes his hands. He looks the same as before - immaculate. He addresses US.

WOLFGANG  
Hi! Nice to meet you!

Leonardo swings over to Annie.

LEONARDO  
And last but not least...

ANNIE interrupts, vigorously waving her hand at US.

ANNIE  
Howdy, y'all! Annie's the name!

Leonardo hops off the jungle gym, stands next to Cosmobile.

LEONARDO  
And of course, this is the  
Cosmobile. We named it that 'cause  
it can take us wherever we want to  
go in the whoooole cosmos...

He gestures to indicate the cosmos then enters the Cosmobile.

LEONARDO  
C'mon everybody! Time to show our  
friend the best part!

The others hop off the jungle gym and into the vehicle.

INT. COSMOBILE

Annie gets in the driver's seat, presses a button on the dashboard. A screen emerges. We see a row of lights spike up and down as a perfectly modulated voice is heard.

COSMOBILE VOICE (V.O.)  
You have selected the Where-oh-  
Where? screen.

Screen is filled with colorful images of icons. A Dayglow arrow appears, jets madly around, pointing at the icons.

LEONARDO (V.O.)  
The Where-oh-Where arrow, or the  
"Wh-arrow" as I like to call it,  
picks today's journey.

ANNIE  
I hope it picks the rodeo! Cowboys  
(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
n' cowgirls, horse-ridin' contests!  
Yee-haw!

The Gang crowds around the screen, watching the wh-arrow.

ANNIE  
Ro-de-o! Ro-de-o! Ro-de-o!

Wh-arrow stops on logo of blue undulating lines, for waves.

COSMOBILE VOICE (V.O.)  
The Wh-arrow has picked the Ocean.

LEONARDO/ISADORA/WOLFGANG  
Yaaaay!!/Yippee!!/Excellent!!!

ANNIE  
Nooo!

WOLFGANG  
You'll love the ocean, Annie. It's  
like a swimming pool, but a  
gazillion times bigger.

Leonardo types on the keyboard of his handheld.

LEONARDO  
Give or take a few kajillions.

ANNIE  
But I wanted to go to the rodeo,  
not some yukky ocean.

ISADORA  
Hey, the ocean's always liked you.  
Every time you walk by, it waves!

Everybody laughs except Annie.

ISADORA  
(to US)  
Get it? Ocean? Waves?

Annie just glares.

LEONARDO

Come on, guys. Time for our flight.

They begin fastening their seat belts. Annie starts up the Cosmobile, presses a button and wings sprout out. She turns it around, backs it up to CAMERA LENS.

ISADORA

(to US)

Don't look so surprised - you didn't think we'd leave without you, did you?

LEONARDO

(to US)

Look! We saved the whole back seat just for you!

WE climb into the back via handheld camera and SEE the backs of the Gang's heads. When they turn around, WE SEE their faces. Beyond, WE SEE the dashboard and windshield.

COSMOBILE VOICE (V.O.)

Thank you for flying Little Einsteins, home of the Cosmobile.

A MONITOR

extends up from the dashboard.

COSMOBILE VOICE (V.O.)

Please make sure your seat belt is fastened...

Monitor shows a kid fastening her seat belt. WE fasten ours.

COSMOBILE VOICE (V.O.)

...and your mouth is in the upright, "smile" position.

The kid's mouth turns from a straight line into a smile.

BACK TO INT. OF COSMOBILE

ANNIE

All right.

She sighs dramatically, then adopts a forced smile. The Cosmobile takes off.

ISADORA

(to US)

I love to travel, don't you?

BEGIN SONG. As WE SING, WE SEE nothing but our fellow passengers, blue sky, fluffy clouds and a few passing birds.

THE GANG

I love when we go from here to there / From here to there, from here to there / I love when we go from here to there / From here to there to there.

ISADORA

Second verse!

THE GANG

Don't really care if we ever get there / I just like the wind in my hair / When we drive by car or fly through the air / It's better than sitting at home in a chair.

ISADORA

(to US)

Join us for the chorus - it's easy!

THE GANG

I love when we go from here to there / From here to there, from here to there / I love when we go from here to there / From here to there to there.

END SONG

ISADORA  
(to US, dramatic)  
Music is my life.

WE SEE a village below, then a beach, and then... the ocean.

COSMOBILE VOICE (V.O.)  
Passengers, prepare to plunge  
downward as we enter the ocean.

WOLFGANG  
Plunge? I'm not a plunger! I need  
my Cuddly Dudley!

He reaches under his seat and gets his stuffed basset hound.

LEONARDO  
Don't worry, Wolfy. The Cosmobile  
can handle anything.

Annie pushes a button. The Cosmobile's wings transform into  
fins as it turns into a submarine.

ANNIE  
(to US)  
Hang on tight, buckaroos! We're  
headed South!

VIEWER'S POV:

POV shift as WE make a sharp dive into the ocean, much like  
the first descent on a roller coaster. The nose of the  
Cosmobile breaks the surface of the water and we are...

UNDERWATER - THE OCEAN

A whole new world - wondrous and mysterious. The Cosmobile  
is now a submarine/submersible. When WE turn sideways, WE  
look out through a round porthole:

MUSIC: Saint-Saens' "The Aquarium" (CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS.)

BEGIN OCEAN RIDE

- a. The dark depths of the ocean. WE traverse a mountain landscape, see glow-in-the-dark hatchet and lantern fish.
- b. WE pass a vent that shoots out hot water like a volcano.
- c. A coral reef. WE pass through a succession of schools of: clown, angel, and multi-colored mandarin fish.
- d. Sea anemones and clams open and close like giant mouths.
- e. A white octopus. Its tentacles reach towards US. It shoots a cloud of black ink into the water.
- f. WE SEE the orange head of a HORSE, its body obscured by an orange coral reef.

END OCEAN RIDE

ANNIE

(excited)

There goes-- I just-- did you--  
It's an orange horse!

LEONARDO

A horse? Under the sea? I don't  
think so.

ISADORA

All I see are fish. Hey, did I  
tell you I'm on a seafood diet?  
When I see food, I eat it!

ANNIE

I'm not kidding, you guys. I saw a  
hooo-oorse - I really saw a horse!  
And it was bee-yoot-i-ful!

ISADORA

(gently)

Annie, I know you had your heart  
set on the rodeo, but horses don't  
live in the water.

ANNIE

(to US)

You saw it too, didn't you?

Beat, as VIEWER responds.

WOLFGANG

Okay, we'll try and find it.

Whatever it was, it couldn't have gone very far.

LEONARDO

(to US)

Will you look out your window for the orange horse creature thing?

If you see it, yell, "I see it!"

WOLFGANG

(to US)

Oh, and if it looks big and scary, could you yell, "Raaaaah!" so I can hide?

Viewer's POV shifts as CAMERA PIVOTS to the left and affords him/her a view of the ocean through the porthole.

WE cruise parallel to an orange coral reef. As it ends, WE SEE the ORANGE SEA HORSE's head behind a rock. VIEWER yells, "I see it!" Gang crowds around the porthole.

THE GANG

Let's see! / There he is! / Look!

THE SEA HORSE

turns from orange to purple as he enters a purple coral reef. Leonardo wipes the lens of his glasses.

LEONARDO

(to US)

Do I need new glasses or did that thing just change colors? Can you see him? What color is he now?

VIEWER yells, "Purple"

The Sea Horse changes color again as he enters a yellow reef.

ISADORA  
(to US)  
And now?

VIEWER yells, "Yellow!"

Leonardo types something into his handheld.

ANNIE  
He really turned colors!

Leonardo holds up his handheld.

LEONARDO  
Well, this explains it - he's not a horse, he's a *fish*. A *sea horse*, to be exact. They're able to camouflage themselves - you know, change colors, so they can hide from things they're afraid of.

WOLFGANG  
(wistfully, to himself)  
I wish I could do that.

Annie presses a button on her belt and a bubble instantly surrounds her head. She excitedly opens up her porthole and swims out. She approaches the sea horse whose tail is around the reef.

ANNIE  
You're a little bitty thing, aren't you? Just a baby. You don't have to be afraid of me, sea horse baby. I just want to be friends.

The sea horse cocks his head as if he understands her. Annie grabs a handful of plant plankton, holds out her hand. He looks tentative, moves closer and eats the plankton. In a goodwill gesture, he bows his head, invites Annie to hop on.

BEGIN ANNIE/SEA HORSE SONG SEQUENCE:

Annie gets on the sea horse, wraps her bandana around his head and uses it for reigns. She rides him like a buckin' bronco, holding on tight and having the thrill of her life.

ANNIE

It may sound strange but my home on  
the range is downright underwater

The sea horse gallops, leaping over hurdles of coral reef.

ANNIE

I tell my sea horse, "Git along  
now!" just like a cowgirl oughta

She grabs some seaweed, fashions it into a lasso.

ANNIE

There ain't any cattle 'cause there  
ain't any land

She whips out her lasso, reels in a star fish.

ANNIE

No stars in the sky, 'cause they're  
all in the sand

Annie kisses the star fish, releases it. It lands in the sand next to a bunch of other star fish.

ANNIE

The seaweed tumbles and the tuna  
ain't canned

A tumbleweed made of seaweed rolls across their path followed by a friendly tuna fish that looks suspiciously like Charlie.

ANNIE

In my rodeo under the sea

The sea horse gallops but a whale is in its way. It makes a huge leap over the whale, landing safely on the other end.

ANNIE

In my ro-de-o under the sea! Yee-haw!

END ANNIE/SEA HORSE SEQUENCE

The Gang and Viewer clap enthusiastically. The Little Einsteins don their bubbles and step outside the Cosmobile. The sea horse bows his head, lets Annie off. She gives him a hug.

ANNIE

Thanks for the ride, sea horse! I don't know your name so I'll call you "Curly," like your tail.

ISADORA

Curly doesn't say much. He must be a little horse.

The others laugh.

ISADORA

Look - Curly's brown now! He's not camouflaging himself anymore - he must trust you.

ANNIE

I want to play with him all day!

LEONARDO

We need to return him to his sea horse friends. The sea can be a dangerous place for a little baby.

WOLFGANG

(nervous)

What do you mean, Leo? What could be dangerous down here?

ISADORA

Um, like maybe... THAT?

She points in the distance. A SHARK heads right towards US.

THE GANG  
SHARK!!!

They race for the Cosmobile.

WOLFGANG  
I knew a visit to the ocean would  
be no day at the beach!

Annie leads Curly to the front of the Cosmobile.

ANNIE  
Curlie knows the ocean better than  
we do. Lead the way, pardner!

She hops in, takes the wheel, and they're off.

INT. COSMOBILE

MUSIC: Chopin's, "The Ocean" (Etude in C-, Opus 25, No. 12)

The chase is on. Annie deftly maneuvers the Cosmobile through the coral reef, in one opening, out another. Then there are mountains to clear and valleys to climb out of. Annie makes a sharp turn, meets up with a mountain that comes out of nowhere. She shifts up and miraculously clears it.

ISADORA  
You go, cow-girlfriend!

Leonardo looks at Wolfgang who looks petrified.

LEONARDO  
(to US)  
Wolfy doesn't look too good, does  
he?

VIEWER responds.

LEONARDO  
Time for Cuddly Dudley.

Isadora reaches down, finds him, hands him to Wolfgang.

ISADORA  
Here you go, Wolfy.

She pats him on back. Wolfy holds Cuddly, feels much better.

ANNIE  
(to US)  
Have we lost the shark yet?

CAMERA PIVOTS so VIEWER is now looking out the back window.  
The shark is still on their tail. VIEWER responds, "No!"

WOLFGANG  
I knew it - we're sunk!

ISADORA  
Of course we're sunk, Wolfy! We're  
at the bottom of the ocean!

Annie veers left, the shark veers left. She veers right, the shark veers right.

ANNIE (V.O.)  
I've got an idea. If sea horses  
use camouflage to hide themselves,  
why can't we?

CAMERA PIVOTS BACK TO FRONT VIEW

Annie spots a bright pink coral reef up ahead. She pulls the gray Cosmobile over, so it's right up against the reef. Curly turns pink and blends right in.

LEONARDO  
(to US)  
Look - Curly's camouflaged himself  
by turning pink!

ANNIE  
Time for us to do the same thing.

She pushes a button on the dashboard and suddenly the entire Cosmobile, interior and exterior, turns pink.

COSMOBILE VOICE (V.O.)  
The Cosmobile is now pink. And  
might I add, an excellent choice.

WE LOOK through the porthole. The shark looks all around,  
seems lost. Frustrated, he goes back the way he came.

GANG  
Yay!!! We did it!!!

LEONARDO  
Now we need to get back to finding  
Curly's friends before another  
shark comes along.

WOLFGANG  
(to US)  
Hmmm. There aren't many sea horses  
swimming about. We haven't seen  
even one, have we?

VIEWER RESPONDS. Leonardo consults his hand-held computer.

LEONARDO  
Actually, according to my  
information, Wolfy, there are  
thousands of them down here.

ISADORA  
Maybe they're all camouflaging  
themselves, just like we did.

LEONARDO  
Good point, Isadora. Maybe if we  
search the reef up-close we'll find  
them.

WOLFGANG  
(to US)  
Can you make binoculars like this--  
(he cups hands on eyes)  
--and try and find a sea horse? If  
you do, just yell out, "I see a sea  
horse!", okay?

Camera pivots as VIEWER looks out porthole.

CORAL REEF

WE PAN from left to right as WE SEE crabs, sea cucumbers, strawberry shrimp, and finally, a pink sea horse!

VIEWER yells, "I see a sea horse!" The Gang looks over, out the window. More pink sea horses appear.

THE GANG  
(to US)  
You found Curly's friends!

The sea horses congregate around Curly and play together.

WOLFGANG  
(gently)  
Annie? Do you want to say goodbye  
to your friend now?

Annie nods, sadly. Isadora pats her on the back. Annie gets out of the Cosmobile. Curly sees her, rushes up to her and nuzzles her. She gives Curly a big hug.

ANNIE  
I guess you're home now. I'm going  
home too. I'll never forget our  
rodeo under the sea.

She gets inside. REPRISE of "Rodeo Under the Sea" melody.

ANNIE  
You know, the ocean sure is a cool  
place. I'm glad we came.

COSMOBILE VOICE (V.O.)  
(to US)  
Please make sure your seat belts  
are fastened and all beloved  
stuffed animals are placed safely  
beneath your seat. We will be  
heading up to the surface now.

Wolfgang checks to see if Cuddly is okay. He is. The Cosmobile heads up and up until we see the light blue sky. Annie presses a button and the Cosmobile's fins transform into wings as it turns back into a plane.

THE GANG AND VIEWER

I love when we go from here to  
there / From here to there, from  
here to there / I love when we go  
from here to there / From here to  
there to there.

THE PARK

at twilight is empty as the sun slips behind a hill. The Cosmobile lands in the sandbox, with it's back to camera. The Gang (except for Annie) gets out; Leo helps US out. Original POV resumes.

LEONARDO

(to US)

Thanks for joining us today. We  
can hardly wait to take another  
trip with you.

The Gang waves good-bye to US.

THE GANG

Bye now! / See 'ya! / So long! etc.

Annie drives towards the hills. The others return from whence they came - to the slide, flowers and swingset.

Cosmobile is now a dot on the horizon, and then... gone. The park is still. Leonardo's head pops up from under the slide.

LEONARDO

(to US)

Hey! What are you still hanging  
around for? Go and play!

His head disappears again.

THE END.

